

REMARKS

In view of Preliminary Amendment (A), filed July 31, 2006, claims 14-33 are pending. The Examiner requires, under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372, restriction of the present application to one of the following inventions:

Group I: Claims 14-22, drawn to a master alloy; and

Group II: Claims 23-33, drawn to a method of casting a modified copper alloy.

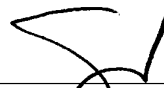
The Examiner contends that the inventions are not linked so as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features. Specifically, the Examiner contends that claim 14 is obvious in view of JP 56-090944 (of record). The Examiner gives absolutely no reason to justify that claim 14 is obvious in view of JP 56-090944. Therefore, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's restriction/election requirement.

In view of the above, Applicant elects, with traverse, the invention of Group I, claims 14-22, for further prosecution. For all of the above reasons, the Examiner's restriction requirement is untenable and should be withdrawn.

The below-signed attorney for Applicant welcomes any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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